

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9, 14-20, and 22-26 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 9, 14, 17, 22, and 25 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 4-7 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,512 to Sasanuma et al. (hereinafter “the ‘512 patent”); Claims 1-4, 14-16, and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,956,583 to Pugsley (hereinafter “the ‘583 patent”) in view of the ‘512 patent; and Claims 8, 9, 21, and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 4-7 and 17-20 as anticipated by the ‘512 patent are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 4 and 17, respectively. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in allowed Claim 8. Moreover, Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in allowed Claim 21. Accordingly, based on the indicated allowability of dependent Claims 8 and 21, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 4 and 17 (and all associated dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 4 and 17.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an imaging apparatus forming an image by performing scanning by deflecting a light beam, the imaging apparatus comprising: (1) an image input part configured to input image data obtained from scanning each scan line of an original image; and (2) a data conversion part that converts a resolution of the image data input by the image input part. Further, Claim 1 recites that the image input part is configured

to input, to the data conversion part, one scan line of the image data a plurality of times in succession, and that the data conversion part converts the resolution into a resolution different for each input scan line. Further, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the data conversion part includes plural data converting parts configured to determine different pulse widths or different pulse intensities for a plurality of scan lines output successively for a single scan, the data converting parts being configured such that rewritable pulse width data and phase code data may be input, the data converting parts being selected for respective ones of the plurality of scan lines by scan line count values corresponding to the plurality of scan lines to be output so that the converted data is output. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the '583 patent discloses everything in Claim 1 with the exception of the data conversion part, and relies on the '512 patent to remedy that deficiency.

The '583 patent is directed to an image reproduction system that reproduces an image at a finer pitch than the scanning of the image. However, as admitted in the Office Action, the '583 patent fails to disclose the data conversion part recited in Claim 1. Further, it follows that the '583 patent fails to disclose the limitation added to amended Claim 1, which further clarifies the data conversion part recited therein.

The '512 patent is directed to an image processing apparatus configured to perform a density conversion on first through n^{th} neighboring lines of image data and to generate data for image formation. In particular, the '512 patent discloses a density conversion step for subjecting each of first through n^{th} lines of image data to a density conversion using a different conversion characteristic for each line every m lines (wherein $1 < m < n$). However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '512 patent fails to disclose a data conversion part that

¹ See, e.g., Figures 5 and 6 and the discussion related thereto in the specification. 2nd

includes plural data converting parts configured to determine different pulse widths or different pulse intensities for a plurality of scan lines output successively for a single scan, the data converting parts being configured such that rewritable pulse width data and phase code data may be input, the data converting parts being selected for respective ones of the plurality of scan lines by scan line count values corresponding to the plurality of scan lines to be output so that the converted data is output, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '583 and '512 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the plural data converting parts recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Claims 14 and 25 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 14 and 25 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendments to Claim 1. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 14 and 25 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to the independent claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 4, 14, 17, and 25 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '512 and '583 patents.

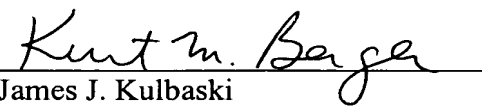
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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